

- Sec.
4104. Acquisition of unmanned maritime systems.
4105. Reports on unmanned maritime systems and usage for mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
4106. Funding and additional authorities.

§ 4101. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Administration

The term “Administration” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) Administrator

The term “Administrator” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) Cooperative activities of the Administration

The terms¹ “cooperative activities of the Administration” means cooperative activities between the Administration and an external entity, such as the Cooperative Institutes, Sea Grant Colleges, National Estuarine Research Reserves, the National Oceanographic Partnership Program established under chapter 665 of title 10, and regional associations of the Integrated Ocean Observing System.

(4) Data specifications

The term “data specifications” shall refer to the type, resolution, periodicity, and quality of data required by an program of the Administration.

(5) Test or training range

(A) In general

The term “test or training range” means an area designated for operating unmanned maritime systems and other types of systems for the purpose of—

- (i) evaluating the performance of such systems; or
- (ii) training personnel on operating procedures for such systems.

(B) Inclusions

The term “test or training range” may include specialized fixed or portable instrumentation for the operation of unmanned maritime systems and other types of systems.

(6) Unmanned maritime systems

(A) In general

The term “unmanned maritime systems” means remotely operated or autonomous vehicles produced by the commercial sector—

- (i) designed to function without an on-board human presence; and
- (ii) that may include associated components such as control and communications, instrumentation, data transmission, and processing systems.

(B) Examples

The term “unmanned maritime systems” includes the following:

- (i) Unmanned undersea vehicles.
- (ii) Unmanned surface vehicles.
- (iii) Autonomous underwater vehicles.
- (iv) Autonomous surface vehicles.

(C) Treatment of aerial vehicles

The term “unmanned maritime systems” includes unmanned aerial vehicles and autonomous aerial vehicles that are used to address maritime issues to the extent the Administrator determines it is necessary and appropriate to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 115–394, §2, Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5281.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 115–394, §1(a), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5281, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Commercial Engagement Through Ocean Technology Act of 2018’ or the ‘CENOTE Act of 2018’.”

§ 4102. Coordination regarding assessment and acquisition by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of unmanned maritime systems

(a) Establishment

The Administrator shall direct the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (in this chapter referred to as “OAR”) and the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (in this chapter referred to as “OMAO”)—

- (1) to coordinate the Administration’s research, assessment, and acquisition of unmanned maritime systems; and
- (2) to consider the use of unmanned maritime systems in cooperative activities of the Administration.

(b) Coordination within the Administration

(1) Unmanned Systems Executive Oversight Board

In meeting the requirements described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

- (A) utilize the Unmanned Systems Executive Oversight Board (in this chapter referred to as the “USEOB”) as the coordinating mechanism; and
- (B) ensure that OAR and OMAO address requirements throughout the Administration.

(2) Included

In utilizing the USEOB under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall ensure that representation on the USEOB is included from the following:

- (A) The Office of Ocean Exploration (OER).
- (B) The program office of the Integrated Ocean Observing System.

(C) Such other offices of the Administration as the Administrator determines are actively engaged with unmanned maritime systems.

(c) Coordination with the Navy

(1) In general

In carrying out this chapter, the Administrator shall—

- (A) make efforts to coordinate with the Secretary of the Navy to leverage expertise in the development and operational transition of unmanned maritime systems;

¹ So in original. Probably should be “term”.